

Series I  
Correspondence,  
1932-1973

Box 8, Folder 17

April 25, 1956 -  
July 10, 1956

0457

25 April 1958

Vice Adm. Felix L. Johnson, USN(Ret.)  
Chairman, Reserve Officer Promotion  
Evaluation Board  
Bureau of Naval Personnel, Room 3042  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Admiral Johnson:

Thank you for your request for my opinions on the Reserve officer promotion system. I have been in the Naval Reserve for thirty-five years, during which time I have formed many opinions regarding the promotion system of the Navy in respect to both the Reserve officer and the regular officer. I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to express my views, especially before such a singularly important board.

In my opinion, the question of promoting Naval officers, whether Reserve or regular, presents a constant challenge to the selection boards. With the vast manpower involved, the ability to select and promote the most qualified man to fill each billet at best, is difficult and requires extensive and comprehensive skills. Naturally, any system which must be so encompassing is bound to have faults, and certainly it is our job to help try to eliminate them. The following are my opinions in respect to the precept.

1. I believe the system for promoting Naval Reserve officers, based on ability, is a fair one.

2. All active duty Reservists should stand selection and be compared to regular Navy officers rather than compete with Reserve officers not on active duty. Active duty Reserve officers are Navy career men, and it is inequitable to have them compete with Reservists not on active duty to whose vocation the Navy is secondary.

Where an active duty Reserve officer competes with a regular officer, the job should be filled by the more qualified man, be he regular or Reserve, but in the case of equally qualified men, the job should go to the regular officer. Where two officers, one regular and one an active duty Reservist, appear to be equally qualified, it would seem that the more extensive background of the regular better qualifies him for the billet. Furthermore, consideration should be given to the regular's early intention of making the Navy a career.

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3. TAR officers should not be considered for promotion by an inactive selection board. They should be considered by the same board that selects the officers of the regular Navy and other Reservists on active duty. While this system was necessitated by expeditious financial considerations, it is hoped that it can now be altered, thereby placing all personnel on active duty on the same basis for selection. This, it is hoped, will also increase the incentive of those men who, because of sea and shore rotation, actually qualify to perform both peace-time and war time duties.

4. As an officer and director of several large companies, I feel that I am as pressed for time as any civilian executive. It is my belief that if a man is sufficiently interested in the Navy he can find the necessary time to devote to it without curtailing his civilian pursuits in any way. I endorse, therefore, the policy that Reservists not on active duty, who do not participate in the Reserve program, should not be promoted. I include in this classification skilled professionals who, in their vocations, are doing the same work which, in all probability, would be required of them in the event of mobilization, such as doctors and dentists, and of others whose general occupations are closely aligned to the Navy, such as personnel of Merchant Marine and steamship companies. Whereas their skills and knowledge in certain areas coincide with that of active duty Reserve and regular officers, their daily jobs encompass only their particular skill, and despite its usefulness to the Navy, they are not engaged in learning and applying the broader and equally important aspects of the Navy's functions. For example, as skilled as a Merchant Marine officer or an American Flag officer might be in seamanship, his knowledge of fire control principles, communications, damage control, and strategic and tactics is not equal to or advancing with that of the active Naval officer. He cannot, therefore, expect to compete with the active Naval officer whose knowledge of seamanship is certainly equal, and in my opinion, superior to the civilian ship officer. Civilian occupation cannot substitute for Naval training. All officers presently are required to qualify for promotion by means of written examinations or completion of correspondence courses. Those standard requirements should be maintained and not altered for any special class. Any other policy would create a double standard and open the door to favoritism.

I believe that the "running-mate" system should be abolished and that a selection system should be set up for Naval Reserve officers only after they have a minimum of time on active or inactive duty in grade.

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There does not seem to be any connection or equitable tie-in of the precedent list of Reserve officers with that of the lineal list of the regular Navy. To do so is unrealistic; e.g., if the regular Navy decided to enlarge the selection zone for promotion from Commanders to Captains by 100 numbers, the Reserve selection zone under the "running-mate" system would be increased by more than 2,000 officers. It is obvious there are no anticipated billets for 2,000 Reserve officers. No officer on inactive duty can acquire the professional background and experience to qualify for promotion at the same rate as an officer on full-time active duty. I believe that the previous policy of crediting an inactive Reserve for half-time service is liberal and should be restored. While this might affect the retirement plans of some Naval Reserve officers, I suggest that long-range plans and legislation to be submitted by your Board should consider primarily the officers commissioned subsequent to World War II. With a time-in-grade qualification, it is my belief that a promotion plan could be established whereby the selection zone would be based on the number of vacancies in grade together with mobilization requirements.

Whereas the promotion of Reservists not on active duty is a morale building factor and has and will continue to stimulate a strong interest in the Navy, I believe that mobilization plans should serve as a guide to the promotion of the Reservist not on active duty. I do not mean necessarily that such Reservist should be promoted only if a billet exists for him under mobilization plans, because this picture can change radically from time to time. However, I certainly believe the number of Reserve officers on inactive duty should not become too unrealistic. I contend that no Reserve officer on inactive duty should be considered for the rank of either Admiral or Captain until such time as he may go on active duty. If an individual is selected for promotions to Captain and Admiral, he should be required to perform active duty for training without pay if sufficient funds are not available. Too frequently after selection to these high ranks, Reservists no longer participate in the Reserve program. On the other hand, I feel it imperative to attract and keep capable Reservists not on active duty interested in the Navy, and I believe promotion is perhaps the strongest stimulant to formenting such interest. I strongly believe that the place where such promotion should be stimulated is in the lower ranks where, in case of mobilization, billets would surely be created.

In relation to this, it seems to me that an unfair system presently exists, whereby regular officers

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who are passed over for promotion must leave the Navy while Reserve officers are allowed to remain until retirement age of 60 and 62 years. In my opinion, the regular should be allowed to remain, and if necessary, a Reservist should be retired in his stead, not only because it would appear that the regular's training should be of better use to the Navy, but because it seems a fairer policy to the man who, from an earlier age, has made the Navy his career.

It is my general contention that one of the most effective methods of maintaining a strong Navy is through a most thorough integration of Reserve and regular officers and enlisted men. The Reserve branch of the Navy is and should continue to be an adjunct to the regular branch. I stand in opposition to the newly proposed creation of an Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserves. In my opinion, this could do nothing but encroach upon what lately, I think, has been a closing of the Reserve-regular gap.

One of my greatest hopes is for the eventual dissolution of all pressure groups and cliques within the Navy, and the abatement of personal gain as a factor in Naval policy. This can come only through a constant realization that we have but one purpose, to serve our country in the most effective manner possible.

Again, let me express my thanks for your kind request for my opinions. If I may be of further assistance to you or your Board, please do not hesitate to call upon me. With kind personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

John J. Bergen  
Rear Admiral, USNR

bb

0461

1 INFORMAL

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON

3 May 1956

Dear Rafe:

This is in answer to your letter of 17 April in which you asked us to see if we could locate a pamphlet for the Southwest Pacific Area concerning mine fields of World War II.

I have had Mr. Cavill of my organization make a search of all sources available to ONI. The Naval Records Management Center at Alexandria does not hold it nor do we have a record of ever receiving such a pamphlet.

Mr. Cavill suggests two other places that might be able to help you and perhaps you would like to contact them. These are: U.S. Naval Records Management Center, Clearfield, Ogden, Utah -- this activity holds all the files on the Far East except for the Far East Flag files; the other activity is the U.S. Naval Records Management Center, Mechanicsburg, Penna, which does hold the Far East Flag files.

Hope the foregoing will be of some assistance to you, Rafe. Sorry we couldn't ferret out the information you want here in Washington.

As ever,

*Carl*

Carl Espe

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN  
Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

0462

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON

27 April 1956

Dear Rafe:

I received your letter of 19 April a few days ago enclosing Naval War College letter of 28 March 1956 to the Chief of Naval Operations (Naval History Division). ONI does not hold the missing records that you desire and I have had our Mr. Cavill (Op-923M) spending the last few days trying to run them down. We haven't had any success in obtaining the physical copies but he did talk to a Mrs. Tanaka (Op-29 translator) who said that Op-29 is now in the process of translating some of the reports which you want. She further said that she had heard that the Naval War College had asked for them but did not know what answer Admiral Heffernan gave in reply. She wanted to know who was making the inquiry and when told by Mr. Cavill that he was working on the project for me Mrs. Tanaka became rather evasive. Why, I don't know. I would suggest that you submit another request to Op-29 for the reports but I request that you do not indicate that we in ONI tipped you off. I don't know nor did Mrs. Tanaka divulge specifically the reports she was working on. It could be she was making the translations for you.

No specific date for my detachment has been set but I imagine it will be sometime the latter part of May or early in June.

With best wishes and regards to all my friends in Newport.

Sincerely,

*Carl*

Carl F. Espe

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN  
Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

0463

23 May 1956

Dear Commodore,

I've discussed your problems concerning the funding of the painting with the appropriate personnel of the Comptroller Division. They in turn took the problem up with the Legal Counsel in the Office of the Comptroller of the Navy who furnished the following information:

(a) The last written decision on a similar subject was in November 1952 and concerned the portrait of a former Chief of a Bureau. The question dealt with the use of appropriated funds for procurement (painting) of the portrait which was to be hung in the Bureau in which the subject served as Chief.

(b) The decision stated the item could not be classified as office furniture or furnishing therefore funds appropriated to the Bureau could not be so used. It was suggested that if it (the painting) was desired it could be obtained by popular subscription, contributions, or as a gift. It was further pointed out in the decision that the only paintings financed from appropriated funds were those of Secretary(s) of the Navy. Commissions for such paintings have been charged to the funds available to the Secretary of the Navy for contingencies. To obtain the authority to use these funds, request should be addressed to the Executive Office of the Secretary. No information was available as to whether any paintings other than those of the Secretary(s) of the Navy have been financed in this manner.

In summary, the appropriated funds available to the Chief of Naval Personnel cannot properly be charged for subject purpose. Funds for such must come from the Executive Office of the Secretary.

I sincerely hope the above information will be of value to you.

Very respectfully,

*Eugene C. Rider*  
EUGENE C. RIDER  
Captain, U. S. Navy

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IN REPLY REFER TO

No. ....



## U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

OVERHAUL AND REPAIR DEPARTMENT

31 May 1956

WWII Battle Evaluation Group  
U.S. Naval War College  
Newport, R. I.

Attention: R. W. Bates

Ref: (a) Naval War College ltr of 10 May 1956

Dear Sir:

Reference (a) requested certain information that might be in my possession.

Enclosure (1) to reference (a) is returned as enclosure (1) with additional notations made indicating the dates on which I flew patrol reconnaissance missions. It will be noted that three 800-mile sectors comprized a part of V223 area. I am not positive that I have the correct number in the correct sector, but I am positive of the date that I flew that sector number.

The following information is extracted from my Aviators Flight Log Book (NAVAER-4111) for October 1944:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Sector</u>	<u>Results</u>
5	11.7 hrs	13V	Negative
10	13.6 "	14V	1200 LCT - attacked 2 LSM from 10000 ft. level bomb run. No hits.
14	12.5 "	49V	Negative
18	14.1 "	2V	Negative
23	10.4 "	34V	Negative
27	14.3 "	36V	Attacked and destroyed radio station NSFQ on Muko Shima
31	15.8 "	46V	Intercepted and shot down one "EMILY"

0465

November, 1944

<u>Date</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Sector</u>	<u>Results</u>
3	10.8 hrs	22V	Negative -
7	11.3 hrs	9V	Negative -
9	10.9 hrs	21V	Negative -
12	12.5 hrs	36V	Aircraft damaged by ground AA in Bonins. Ditched 30 mi. NNW TINIAN

I do not have access to any other records that would shed any light on the subject. As far as communications reports are concerned I do not recall what reports went out on which dates.

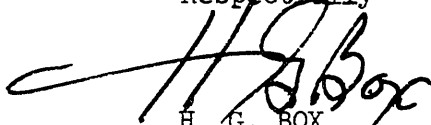
Enclosure (2) is a list of officers, showing the squadron they were assigned to during October 1944, who are still on active duty. Lcdr. Currin is at Corpus Christi now. The duty station of the others I do not know.

Radio station NSFQ, which I destroyed with low level strafing and bombing attack on 27 October 1944, was responsible for a considerable amount of communications jamming prior to October 27, 1944. It was directly responsible for 100% jamming of all frequencies on 10 October 1944 when I contacted 2 LSM at position indicated on enclosure (1) and I finally made the report verbally at post flight briefing. As I recall, other patrol reconnaissance pilots reported similar interference during August and September.

I regret that I recall no further incidents during subject period. If I can be of further service to you, please contact me.

On 9 June 1956 I am being detached and reassigned to a new duty station. My new address is on the envelope.

Respectfully

  
H. G. BOX  
LCDR, US. NAVY

New address:  
LCDR. H.G. BOX, USN,  
VW-2 Squadron, NAS,  
Patuxent River, Md.

0466



Conrad, J.P.

FPA-2

494/223  
220330

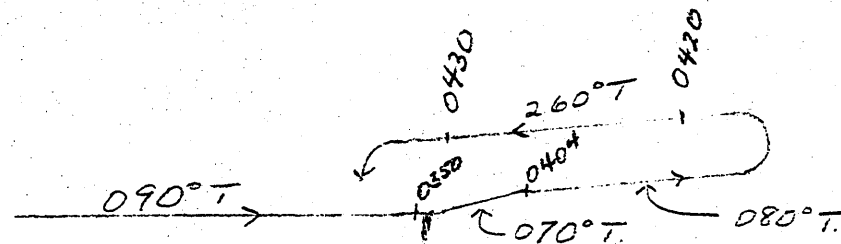
FOR -1330T C3F

H 434 2/2240 ]

30.5 221440

0468

TRACED FROM  
DENVER TRACK CHART



ENCLOSURE (1)

0479

28 May 54

Glen - this is all I could find out from my log book:

<u>month</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>PPC</u>	<u>Remarks</u> (as shown in log book)	<u>Time</u>
Oct.	6	J.R.H. B. C. C. C.	Patrol - negat -	12.5
	10	"	Patrol - negat -	13.7
	15	"	Patrol - negat -	12.6
	19	"	Patrol - negat -	10.5
	23	"	Patrol - strafed picked - unsuccessful bomb drops - got 3 holes in wing + 1 in #4 engine from this fire.	12.0
	<del>27</del>			
	<del>31</del>			
	27	"	Patrol - over two firms	12.2
	31	"	Patrol - negat	
Nov.	2	"	Carried subs (believe this was the crippled sub - & an escort)	10.5
	7	"	Patrol - negat	10.2
	11	"	Covered tank force	12.0
	13	"	Search for survivors of Encl #5.	7.1

That's all I've got that might interest you. Sorry I haven't more, & sorry I have to dash it off in such a hurry, but I'm busy as heck today & have to fly all night tonight. If you mention my data in your letter, you might also mention that I was

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a engine co-pilot/navigator at the  
time — not PPC. Ralph was  
PPC on all those hops. That's  
about it, so wish you luck.

Norm C.

This Note from LCDR. NORMAN P.  
CURRIN, USN ATU-501 NAS  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS.

0471

3 June 1956

Dear Commodore,

Although you misspelled my name your letter of 29 May was properly forwarded to me.

The proper address to use in forwarding the materials in question is as follows:

"Chief of Naval Operations  
Op-922Y (Rm 5D-724, Pentagon)  
Washington 25, D.C."

The best method of forwarding would of course be by officer courier. In any event the package should be double wrapped with the inner wrapping marked as follows:

"TO BE OPENED BY OP 922Y ONLY"

Very respectfully,

*J.A. Marks*  
J.A. Marks, Cdr USN

0472



INF

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

June 13, 1956

From: The President  
To: All Officers

I wish to offer to each and every one of you my heartiest congratulations on the successful year just completed. The contributions made by all of you furthered the success of our final Global Strategy Discussions, which I believe were highly beneficial to all participants.

To those leaving for other duty—Good Luck and Best Wishes for a successful career! Do not hesitate to call on us if the Naval War College can be of assistance to you in the future.

To those remaining on the Staff—Best Wishes for another interesting and profitable year.

  
LYNDE D. McCORMICK

0473

U. S. NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHIC CENTER

NAVAL AIR STATION  
ANACOSTIA, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:

05/JWE:hgb  
JL2 1945

21 JUN 1956

Commodore R. W. Bates  
U. S. Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

My dear Commodore Bates:

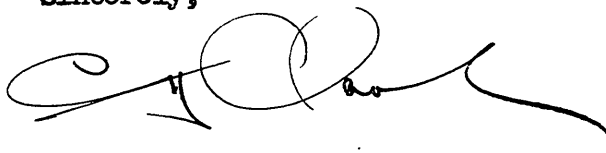
Your letter of 13 June was on my desk when I returned from leave today.

Your announcement of the fine reception given "The Battle of Savo Island" films at the Naval War College is very gratifying. We concur with your opinion of the importance of these films, and that the efforts to secure the best results possible were completely justified.

I would like very much to accept your offer for a letter from the Naval War College confirming the satisfactory completion of the project. If you agree, a mention of the good work done by Mr. G. I. Johnson might be appropriate, permitting a copy to be placed in his file.

The "Triumph" imported sports car was won by a sailor stationed at NARTU here at the Naval Air Station. My sympathy and thanks for your contribution to our joint charity drive.

Sincerely,



C. H. CLARK  
Captain, USN  
Commanding Officer

0474

Op-29/pam

10 July 1956

The Secretary  
U.S. Naval War College  
Newport  
Rhode Island

Dear Sir:

Via registered mail I am sending you two packages addressed to Rear Admiral R. W. Bates, USN, in care of The Secretary, Naval War College.

These contain documents which the Chief of Naval Operations has specially authorized Admiral Bates to use in connection with his Analysis.

Will you be so kind as to hold these for Admiral Bates, in your safe, until he returns from California?

Will you please acknowledge receipt to me.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN B. HEFFERNAN  
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)  
Director of Naval History (Op-29)

0475